UNCLASSIFIED

P820008-0269

R 109

MARGE ROUKEMA
7th District, New Jersey

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND RENEGOTIATION

COMMITTEE:
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
LABOR STANDARDS

WASHINGTON OFFICE
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4465

DISTRICT OFFICES
19 Forest Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652
(201) 845-4225

# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 15, 1982

OCS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 3/15/82
EXEMPTION(S) [illegible]

The Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing with regard to recent State Department actions concerning the case of John Sullivan, Jr., a constituent who has been missing in El Salvador since December 28, 1980. I am most disturbed by the manner in which the State Department and the American Embassy in El Salvador have handled two recent letters which claim knowledge of Mr. Sullivan. The facts are as follows:

On October 20, 1981, the first letter was received by the Washington Post from one claiming to be a member of the El Salvador Hacienda Policia. On October 22, I spoke by phone with then Deputy Secretary of State William P. Clark, who was acting in your place while you were out of the country. I was assured by Mr. Clark that the Sullivan family and myself would be kept continuously informed of the embassy's efforts pertaining to the letter. Apart from a series of contacts with the embassy by an apparent imposter, very little transpired for several weeks.

However, in mid-December, a second letter, dated December 9, was received from one claiming to be the same Hacienda Policia agent and bearing further details of his knowledge of what had happened to Mr. Sullivan. Yet, despite Mr. Clark's previous assurances, no contact was made with my office and the family knew nothing of the specifics of the letter until January 12, almost an entire month after it had been received by the embassy. Furthermore, despite the fact that the Citizens Emergency Center of the State Department had apparently informed the family that the letter contained no information which could not have been obtained from an ad placed in the Salvadoran newspapers by the family, the letter contained several specific points of identification as well as the name of a location where Mr. Sullivan's body had been taken.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
'82 JAN 19 AM 9 32
OPR/ANALYSIS

From: Marge Roukema

(4)

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

UNCLASSIFIED

On January 13, after the enclosed letter to Ambassador Diego Asencio, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, had been sent, a member of my staff, Dan Yager, contacted Mr. James Ward, Director of the Citizens Emergency Center, by phone requesting details as to what actions the embassy had taken with regard to the second letter and what further actions were planned. I understand this same request had been made by the Sullivan family. Mr. Ward was only able to give Mr. Yager a few details but indicated he had just that day sent a cable to the embassy requesting a full explanation of actions taken and actions planned.

On January 14, while both the Sullivan family and my office were still awaiting this explanation, the UPI carried a story indicating that Ambassador Hinton, the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, had stated that the investigation into the letters was completed and that it was his conclusion that they constituted an extortion attempt.

I find the following points disturbing and inexcusable: 1) the serious delay in providing the Sullivan family with the details of the second letter; 2) the failure to inform me or my office of the letter, despite Mr. Clark's assurances; 3) the inaccuracy of the initial reports to the family as to the contents of the letter; 4) the continuing failure to provide myself or the family with the details of the embassy's investigation; and 5) the statement to the press by Ambassador Hinton regarding the conclusions of the investigation in the absence of any knowledge by either the Sullivan family or the State Department in Washington as to the progress of the investigation.

Therefore, I respectfully request official responses to the following:

1) Has the investigation into the letters in fact been concluded?

2) If so, what conclusions have been reached and upon what facts are they based?

3) If it has not been concluded, what actions have been taken and what further actions are planned?

I further request that you take whatever action is necessary to ensure that further breakdowns in communications on this matter

between the embassy, the State Department in Washington, the Sullivan family and my own office are avoided. I appreciate your attention and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Marge Roukema

Marge Roukema
Member of Congress

MSR:Dy
Enclosure

cc: The Honorable William P. Clark
The Honorable Diego Asencio
The Honorable Thomas O. Enders
The Honorable Richard Fairbanks
James Ward
Donna Igoe

MARGE ROUKEMA
7TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE:
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND RENEGOTIATION

COMMITTEE:
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
LABOR STANDARDS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
226 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4465

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10 FOREST AVENUE
PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY 07652
(201) 845-3335

# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
### Washington, D.C. 20515

January 11, 1982

The Honorable Diego Asencio
Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Asencio:

It is my understanding that the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador received a letter last month from a person claiming to bear knowledge of John Sullivan, Jr., a freelance reporter missing in El Salvador since December 1980.

As you know, a similar letter had been previously sent to the Washington Post last Fall. I understand from Jim Ward of the Citizens Emergency Center that the recent letter was from the same person and that it contains additional information, including physical characteristics of the person claimed to be John Sullivan.

I would appreciate your informing me as to what steps have been taken to verify these letters and what future actions are being planned. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Marge Roukema
Member of Congress

MR:dy

cc: Richard Fairbanks
Donna Igoe

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS